**EDLD 5368: Instructional Design**

In the first week of this course we were asked to analyze our teaching and learning styles. I already knew that I fell under the category of a visual learning, but what was interesting to me was that I fell in this category for teaching style as well. I do teach with a variety of visuals and manipulatives, but before this course I never thought much about it. This course has taught me that it is important to teach with a variety of teaching styles because not all students learn the same.

The readings in this particular course focused on student understanding. According to Wiggins and McTighe, “A primary goal of education should be the development and deepening of student understanding” (2000). I was a first year teacher during this course, and I think this particular quote really meant a lot to me. It reminded me of the reason I went to school for education in the first place. This is something that will always guide my teaching style, and student success and understanding will be my ultimate goal throughout my teaching career.

During week 3 we created a Schoology page. This was a web page that allowed us to interact, post assignments, and send information. It was basically an online course that could be used for all grade levels. The information that I gained from this assignment is something that I will use when I reach my goal of becoming a technology facilitator. I can use this web site to conduct online professional development trainings and create school brandings for custom websites. According to Watson, “Online learning is experiencing dramatic growth across the nation” (2007). If this is the case, then we will need to learn to produce more online courses in the near future. We will need to know how to operate them and manage them effectively. As I mentioned earlier student understanding and success is the ultimate goal; therefore, if the world is moving to online courses, we must make them equally as effective.

References:

Wiggins, G. & McTighe,J. (2000). *Understanding by Design.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Schoology. (2011). *Schoology's enterprise level features*. Retrieved from <https://www.schoology.com/premium.php>

Watson, J. (2007). A national primer on k-12 online learning. *North American Council for Online Learning.* Retrieved on June 5,2011 from http://www.inacol.org/research/docs/national\_report.pdf